

Battle Plan

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March 16th Petra performed at Farm Aid in Dallas, Texas making them the first Christian rock band to ever be invited.

Back Stage Pass video released to markets

Petra's hour-long Back Stage Pass video proves to be insightful and entertaining. It gives exclusive interview footage of the band members and features five new music videos based on songs from their current #1 selling *Unseen Power* recording.

The Back Stage Pass Video is the first ever contemporary Christian video project that contains closed captioning for the hearing impaired.

"The addition of closed captioning to the video represents yet another step forward for the pioneer band in Christian rock," Dan Beck, vice president of Product Development for Epic Records, said. "It is most exciting and appropriate that Petra would lead the way in introducing closed captioning to contemporary Christian music videos," he added.

Prayer Warrior Update

From a survey we found most of you want to be on our newsletter mailing. So, Petra World Ministries is combining the Prayer Warrior and *Battle Plan* mailing lists. Thus, in each *Battle Plan* newsletter there will be a section on prayer requests. Further, since PWM does not maintain a foreign newsletter mailing list, we will not continue any mail-outs or pairing of groups to foreign Prayer Warriors.

Mexico performance benefits homeless

by Lesley S. Vance

Petra recently performed their first Mexico concert before a crowd of 5,000 at the Auditorio Nacional, one of the largest theatres in the world, in Mexico City. The concert benefited Love Ministries, a Catholic charity in Mexico City which feeds, shelters and educates homeless children.

"The Mexican people seemed thrilled that we thought they were important enough to learn to sing in their language," Bob Hartman, guitarist, said.

"The young people in Mexico City have a thirst for Christian music and ministry," Johnny Lawry, keyboardist, explained.

By law there are no Christian radio or television stations in Mexico. There had never been a Christian concert as large as Petra's concert at the Auditorio Nacional. In light of this, there were over 70 local press members covering Petra's concert.

During Petra's performance at the Auditorio Nacional, thousands of fans raised their fists and sang the battle cry "Ready, Willing and Able," from Petra's latest recording *Unseen Power*. The crowd continued to sing the choruses to the songs as the band played selections from their 20 year repertoire.

While on stage Petra also received a plaque commemorating their commitment to the children of Mexico City through their donation of time and talent to benefit Love Ministries.

"Singing in Spanish was a way of showing respect to that country. It was exciting to have the opportunity to do that," John Schlitt, lead vocalist, said.

Petra band members report that getting into Mexico was a real challenge. They battled endless red tape with the Mexican government to get band member and equipment permits. In addition, their transport truck was towed away by police and passports were confiscated for a day. But in the end, the lights went up and the *UNSEEN POWER* of Jesus Christ was revealed.

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Advice to young musicians



For the band members of Petra, being a musician is being a minister. Music is the tool they use to preach the gospel. In light of that, here are some pointers for young musicians—ministers.

Bob Hartman—"Be faithful in small things and God will give you bigger things."

Johnny Lawry—1. "Are you serious?" 2. "Practice, practice and practice." 3. "Find a day job! Seriously though, an important factor that many overlook is to seriously study the Word which is vitally important to a ministry. Secondly, get some musical education and study hard."

John Schlitt—"Don't despise small beginnings. Know that if God has put it on your heart to be a musician, it is an awesome responsibility and takes a lot of preparation and work. But, it is very rewarding in so many different ways."

Ronny Cates—"Strive for excellence and allow God to put you where He wants you."

Louie Weaver—"The best looks in the world will not make you the most successful. Attitude and especially being able to get along with other people will get you in more doors. Be a positive person."

Petra en español?

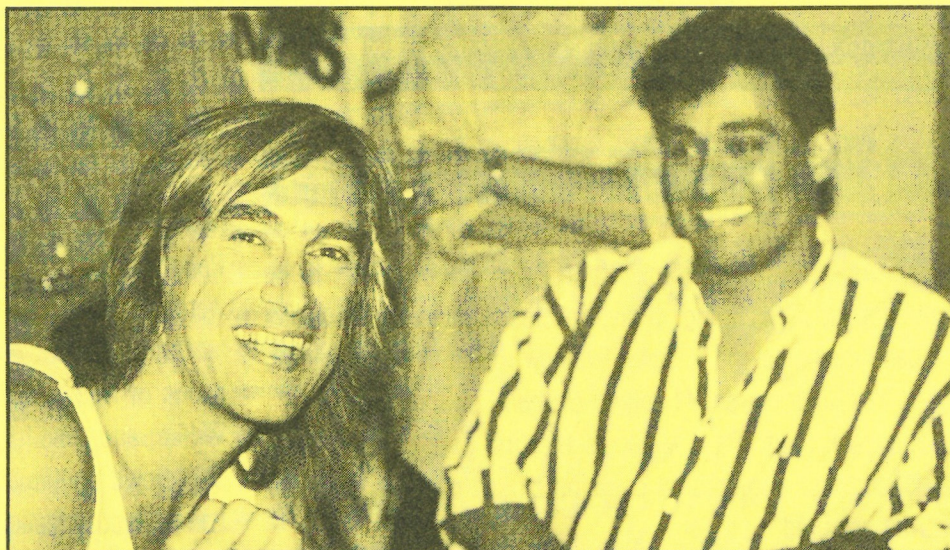
by Lesley S. Vance

Petra has ventured into a new frontier—recording in Spanish. They recently recorded *Petra En Alabanza* which will be released in October. It is the Spanish language version of the 1988 *Petra Praise: The Rock Cries Out* recording. In *Petra En Alabanza* lead vocalist John Schlitt is featured delivering the Spanish lyrics with the same conviction that he put into the 1988 recording.

"We believe there is an exploding evangelical movement happening in Spanish speaking countries," Bob Hartman, guitarist, said. "We feel by providing Praise and worship in their own language we can be a part of this revival."

"It was great listening to John sing the songs in Spanish. During the project we had Mexican chips and salsa to set the mood," Johnny Lawry, keyboardist, said.

"Our prayer is that the Lord will touch people's lives with this recording," he added.



Engineer Gerardo Hernandez coaches John Schlitt in the studio while working on *Spanish Praise*.

Win prizes—Back Stage Pass Video trivia

Here is your chance to win a Petra paraphernalia prize package (say that really fast three times!!) in the Back Stage Pass Video Give Away. The grand prize winner receives packages 1, 2 and 3 (shown on page 4 of this newsletter). Six other winners will get package 1, 2 or 3 and eight more entrants will win package 5.

Correctly answer the following questions on a **postcard** and send it to VIDEO GIVE AWAY, P. O. Box 680158, Franklin, TN 37068-0158. Be sure to include your

T-shirt size and cassette/CD preference on the **postcard**. A random drawing will be held November 20th to determine the winners.

1. What was in John Schlitt's bag when he came out of the store?
2. What does Louie put on his drum sticks to keep from dropping them?
3. What song does Petra play during the acoustic set?
4. What scripture verse inspired Johnny to write "In The Likeness of You"?



Petra's new theatrical stage setting has been well received at recent concerts.

Pros and cons of being a musician

Being a musician is not just for anyone. Some days you have to take the good with the bad. Here is what the guys and their wives say.

Bob: Pro—"Seeing the world." Con—"Hard to form meaningful relationships with people at home." **Johnny:** Pro—"I get out of mowing the lawn! (just kidding)....Seeing a more global viewpoint of life, people and Christianity." Con—"It's hard being jostled around in the bus and getting sleep interrupted." **John:** Pro—"For a father of four, having lengthy quiet time to read is a pro." Con—"Being a musician is physically demanding." **Ronny:** Pro—"I don't have to mow the lawn while I am gone." Con—"When I come home the lawn is a foot high." **Louie:** Pro—"Being a traveling musician has helped me appreciate home more. I do not take things for granted."

Kim (Bob): Pro—"Having time to catch up on things." Con—"I get lonely." **Stefanie (Johnny):** Pro—"Getting time to catch up on my 'to do' list." Con—"Not having his support/help with the kids and having to mow the lawn by myself." **Dorla (John):** Pro—"Food bill goes down considerably." Con—"Pressure of managing four children, ages 3-17, increases." **Tresa (Ronny):** Pro—"Getting to vacation at Disney when they play there." Con—"Don't have anyone to laugh with when watching 'I Love Lucy' and 'Andy Griffith.'" **Penny (Louie):** Pro—"I appreciate his time at home more, and do not take our time together for granted." Con—"Making married decisions without my partner."

Petra kicks off new video via radio

The release of Petra's latest video project, "Back Stage Pass", got a special boost from radio. Five stations across the country participated in the kick-off of the new 55-minute video, as band members appeared in different cities signing autographs and greeting fans at local book stores, hooking up for simultaneous interviews.

Louie's bookstore appearance at Sonshine Book & Gifts in Anaheim, Calif. was broadcast via KYMS Radio. John was

heard over WCBW in St. Louis, Mo. from One Way bookstore. Johnny appeared in San Antonio, Texas at the Shepherd Shop, carried over KSLR Radio. KCMS in Seattle, Wash. broadcast Ronny's appearance at the Evangel Bookstore, and Bob checked in from His Excellence in Franklin, Tenn. via WAYM in Nashville.



On the personal side

Hi Gang!

For a summer that was suppose to be slowed down for the band, I was a very busy boy. Through the summer festivals, my opportunity to minister through solo dates, and the challenge of singing in Spanish for the Spanish version of the Petra Praise and Worship album, God has taught my family and myself so much. I am constantly amazed at how gracious our God is. Through the festivals I was reminded how powerful the body of Christ can be when they unite in praise and worship. It was exciting. Through my solo dates I was shown once again how important it is to have that one-on-one contact with brothers and sisters in the Lord—not only for them but for me as well. Last but not least, I was reminded that through Jesus nothing is impossible—though it looks like the task is overwhelming. Although I have never spoken a word of Spanish the Lord helped me to accomplish the challenge I was given.

Although it sounds like I had no family life at all because of the summer's pace, I did. All four of my children were able to travel with me at different times and be with me in the studio more than ever before. Sharing this time together has strengthened our relationship and has reminded the whole family of the ministry we share together.

In Christ's love,

John and family

Prayer Requests

European Tour—Pray for safe travel as Petra does a three-week tour in 11 countries, for the Holy Spirit's guidance and that the message will be translated well.

Spanish Praise—Pray the album will minister to Spanish speaking countries.

Band and Crew families—Pray for the families as they keep up with the children, school activities, etc.

